THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to reserve production of bicycle components and dairy equipment by medium and large scale industries only.

Oil exploration by a private sector company

2055. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian private sector company has been allowed to enter the field of onshore and offshore oil exploration if so, what are the reasons for this major departure from the oil exploration policy in vogue so far;

(b) whether other private companies are also likely to be allowed to enter this field; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) An offer from Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd. for exploration of hydrocarbons in onshore areas on a risk-sharing basis has been received.

Various issues related to participation by a private oil company in such a venture would need consideration for taking a final decision in this matter.

Gas reserves in Bantumilli in the north east of Machilipatnam

2056. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of oil and gas were recently struck in the second well at Bantumilli, North East of Machilipatnam in the Krishna-Godavari basin;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) wnat would be the total gas production in the entire Krishna-Godavari basin by the end of the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Oil and gas have been found in the second well at Bantumilli, North East of Machilipatnam. The well during initial testing, produced 100-150 barrels/day of oil and 23,000 cubic metres per day of solution gas through 16/64" choke. The extent of reserves will, however, be known after further drilling of step out wells.

(c) Gas production from Krishna Godavari basin till end of 7th Plan period is expected to be around 117 million cubic metres.

पेट्रोल पम्पों तथा गैस एजेंसियों के आबंटन का मानदंड

2057. **डा० अबरार अहमद खान:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पेट्रोल पंप और गैस एजेंसियों के आबंटन के लिए जिन व्यक्तियों का साक्षात्कार किया जाता है उनके लिये क्या मानदंड अपनाया जाता है;